of medical officers and health workers in Family Welfare have been formulated by Department of Family Welfare and issued to all States and Union Territories.

Planning and implementation of training of all health functionaries for Family Welfare Programmes has been decentralised to the district level. Action has also been initiated to integrate training on health issues for all workers in the District Training Plans. In addition, action has been initiated to integrate the training components of the Departments of Health, Women and Child Development, Education, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and the Ministry of Rural Development which impact on health and family welfare issues into the training initiatives of the Department of Family Welfare.

Henceforth training will be imparted to the functionaries based on their job functions and will focus on gaps in clinical, communication and managerial skills. As training is a continuous process the functionaries will be exposed to cycles of training at regular intervals to be determined by States and Union Territories at district level.

Selection of Health workers will be made by districts in the District Training Plans under preparation. The provisional training load expected to be covered in phases starting in 1997-98 and to be completed over a period of 5 years is given below.

Category of Personnel		Numbers to be Trained
Specialist Doctors	-	2621
Doctors at Primary Health Centres	-	26583
Block Extension Educators	-	5616
Health Assistant (Male)	-	15879
Health Worker (Male)	-	61607
Health Assistant (Female)	-	19019
Health Worker (Female)	-	133452
Pharmacists	-	19225
Lab. Technicians	-	10163
Nurse Mid-Wife	-	12080
Radiographer	-	1274

National Blindness Eradication Programme

*251. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'National Blindness Eradication Programme' in the country is being implemented under Union Government's guidance and supervision;

(b) if so, the officials/workers under whose supervision this programme is being implemented at Primary Health Centres level in various States;

(c) the nomenclature by which the programme is known in various States,

(d) whether the pay scales and conditions of service of the workers deputed in different States are same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the action being taken for bringing them at par?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Para medical Opthalmic Assistant is the basic worker at the Primary Health Centre, who works under the supervision of Medical Officers Incharge of the centre.

(c) The programme is known as "National Programme for Control of Blindness".

(d) and (e). Health being the State subject, the pay scales and service conditions of the personnel engaged in the programme are determined by the respective States.

[Translation]

Pak Visa to Indians

*252. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan High Commission in India is restricting number of visas that are issued to Indians, who intend to visit Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K GUJRAL) : (a) Pakistan is not required to inform us regarding the number of visas issued to Indian nationals. It is, however, understood that Pakistan has adopted cumbersome procedures that have made its visa policy towards Indian nationals highly restrictive.

(b) We believe that fostering of people-to-people contacts would contribute to establishing a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation between the two countries. We have, therefore, taken a number of unilateral measures to facilitate the grant of visas to Pakistani nationals desirous of visiting India. Pakistan's visa policy reflects their negative attitude regarding the bilateral relationship.

[English]

National Malaria Eradication Programme

*253. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite a 'National Malaria Eradicatior